

**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
Meeting Notes
July 30, 2018**

California Natural Resources Building, Sacramento

1. Participants (11): Members--Dr. Russ Henly (Co-chair), Sue Husari (Co-chair), Sal Chinnici, Dr. Stacy Drury, Jim Burke, and Mandy Culpepper
Staff—Matt Dias, Dave Fowler, and Pete Cafferata
Participants—Loretta Moreno and Jonathan Warmerdam
Webinar participants (3): Matt House, Clarence Hostler, and Caroline Petersen

2. Report by the Co-Chairs

- Sue Husari reported on current fire conditions (Carr Fire and Mendocino Complex) and the Board's July meeting in Bishop.
- Russ Henly reported on the following topics:
 - The Governor's new Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) is being led by Terry O'Brien, Chair of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board. The FMTF had its initial meeting on June 11th at the Capital, and the second meeting is scheduled for August 13th. The FMTF organizational document was sent out July 24th and provides lists of participants for the six technical working groups (Forest Management and Restoration, Prescribed Fire, Regulations, Technical Education and Outreach, Wood Products Innovation, and Tree Mortality) and four Regional Information Exchange Working Groups (Sierra, Southern, Northern, and Coastal). There will also be a Science Advisory Panel and a Public Outreach Coordinator. A key goal is to double the total statewide rate of forest treatments within 5 years to at least 500,000 acres per year.
 - The request for EMC project proposals was sent out on July 16th, with a due date of September 7th. EMC members and staff are requested to disseminate it widely and encourage project submission for the available \$425,000 in fiscal year 2018. The document is posted at:
http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/pdfs/request_for_emc_proposals_august_2017.pdf
 - CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) report has been largely completed and it will be released shortly. The Board will adopt strategic policies based on the FRAP assessment indicators. AB 1492 ecological performance measures under development are expected to be finer grained than the indicators included in the FRAP assessment.
 - AB 1492 update:
 - Russ Henly announced that he has hired Loretta Moreno to fill his new Senior Environmental Scientist position.
 - The synchronicity process is proceeding, with an emphasis on obtaining DFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements (LSAAs) and Water Board General Waste Discharge Requirements (GWDRs) provided to plan proponents within five days of THP approval.

- CalTREES electronic plan submission remains on target to be fully available by October 2018, with the expectation that this process will help with coordinated permitting approval from the Review Team agencies.
- A brief update on the CAL FIRE-led pilot Exemption and Emergency Notice effectiveness monitoring was provided. To date, 24 of the 50 randomly selected notices have been completed (this includes notices that were approved but were never logged). Most of the notices in the northern and central Sierra Nevada have been completed, with notices in the southern Sierra and coastal counties yet to be evaluated. The field work is expected to be completed by late August, and has included participation from CGS, Regional Water Boards, and DFW staff.

3. Updates on Contracting and Accomplishments for EMC Projects

- **EMC-2015-001 (Class II-Large Monitoring)**: Three main areas have been selected to implement the regional scale component of the Class II large watercourse study, which is assessing the effectiveness of rule criteria for identifying Class II watercourses susceptible to thermal loading. Drew Coe met with Oregon State University Master of Science (MS) student Adam Pate and Dr. Catalina Segura on July 9th. Field work had been completed for Jackson Demonstration State Forest, and was about to begin on LaTour Demonstration State Forest before moving on to the Klamath River basin. Approximately 100 sites will be studied.
- **EMC-2015-002 [Forest Practice Rules Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring (FORPRIEM) ver. 2.0.] and EMC-2015-004 (Effectiveness of Road Rules in Reducing Hydrologic Connectivity and Significant Sediment Discharge)—Statistical Consultation**: The final report is posted at: http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/mm0618/emc_4-a_calfire_erosion_statistical_final_report_20june2018.pdf.
- **EMC-2016-003: Repeat LiDAR Surveys to Detect Landslides**: The amended CAL FIRE/CGS contract to purchase LiDAR for \$100,000 has yet to be fully approved, but the funds have been encumbered.
- **EMC-2017-001 (UC Davis Caspar Creek Nutrient Study)**: UC Davis's Dr. Helen Dahlke provided their final report for the Save the Redwoods League that was submitted with the closure of that grant (dated June 30, 2018). It contains updated nutrient and water chemistry data and analysis for the South Fork of Caspar Creek. The document is posted at: http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/proposed_projects/emc-2017-001_final_report.pdf. A bromide/nitrate/ammonium stream injection will occur this summer, allowing the characterization of nitrogen dynamics as a function of stream order.
- **EMC-2017-002 (Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF) Post-Fire Automated Bird Records Study)**: The second year of bird recordings were made in the late spring of 2018.
- **EMC-2017-004: Monitoring Class III Watercourses**: Equipment for this project has been purchased by BOF and CAL FIRE staff, including 120 Onset temperature loggers. Field work will not begin until 2019.
- **EMC-2017-006: Tradeoffs Between Riparian Buffers, Fire, and Regeneration**: The contract for this project has been approved, and field work for the study has occurred on Blodgett Forest Research Station.

- **EMC-2017-007: The Life Cycle of Dead Trees and Implications for Management:** The contract for this project has been approved. Dr. Stacy Drury reported that most of the first year snag study work has been completed on Blodgett Forest Research Station.
- **EMC-2017-008: FPRs to Minimize Fir Mortality from Root Diseases:** The contract for this project has been approved. The study will be conducted by Dr. Richard Cobb, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.
- **EMC-2017-009: Effectiveness of Class II Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) at Maintaining or Restoring Canopy Closure, Stream Water Temperature, and Primary Productivity:** Matt House and Drew Coe will continue to work with OSU's Drs. Kevin Bladon and Catalina Segura to finalize the study plan, with the expectation of requesting EMC funding in fiscal year 2018.
- **EMC-2017-012: Bat Study on Demonstration State Forests:** Dr. Michael Baker, CAL FIRE, reported that equipment for this project has been purchased. His Scientific Collecting Permit renewal has been approved, but he does not yet have the actual physical permit. He anticipates starting the full study in May 2019, with some field testing late this summer on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. Dr. Baker attended a training workshop provided by the Wildlife Society in the San Jacinto Mountains in June, where he was able to field test one of the acoustic detection units during the workshop.

Co-chair Henly stated that the EMC needs to be more disciplined in completing its project review process earlier in the fiscal year, allowing more time for contract development and approval.

4. Discussion of Updates to EMC Project Review Process

Co-chair Husari stated that she expanded the EMP project review process discussion and moved it forward into the main text in the revised EMC Strategic Plan (out of the appendices).

5. EMC Strategic Plan 2018 Annual Revisions and Updates

There was agreement that the EMC Strategic Plan revised outline prepared by Drew Coe will provide significant improvement for the new version of the document. Specific suggestions for changes to the outline included:

- Add an executive summary.
- Move 3(e) Linkage to Policy Making to Section 2, between (a) and (b).
- Limit Section 4 to (b) Development of Critical Questions and (c) EMC Themes and Relationship to Critical Questions.
- Create a new Section 5, composed of 4(a) Purpose of Workplan and 4(d) Annual Workplan Development and Approval.
- Renumber Section 5 to Section 6 and add a flowchart for EMC Project Development and Management.
- Add a new section on transparency and conflict of interest in new Section 6 (Board Council Jeff Slaton will write this section).
- References still in use in the document will be retained.

It was agreed that Co-chair Husari would review, shorten, and rewrite Sections 2.1.1 to 2.1.9 (agency priorities and monitoring questions), and move them to an appendix. Jonathan Warmerdam suggested that Co-chair Husari consider information in the Wood for Salmon Working Group 2011 permitting

guidance document (see:

<https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/california/Documents/LargeWoodRestoration-PermitGuidanceDocument-WFSWG-final.pdf>).

An annual report and workplan will be produced to document accomplishments in the past year and the EMC's intended actions for the next 12 months. This information will be removed from the Strategic Plan (e.g., Section 2.5).

Co-chairs Henly and Husari and Matt Dias will produce a revised Strategic Plan by August 24th, allowing the EMC three weeks for review prior to the next meeting on September 18th. The goal is to provide the document to the Board by their September 25th-27th meeting in Yreka.

6. EMC Membership and Member Recruitment

Co-chair Henly announced that the EMC has two new members submitted for Board approval:

- Cliff Harvey, State Water Resources Control Board--Division of Water Quality, Certification and Wetlands Program.
- Dr. Emily Burns, Save the Redwoods League—Director of Science.

The two academic seats remain as vacancies on the EMC. The EMC has sent letters to university deans and professors, without commitments at this time.

7. Public Forum – No public comments.

8. Location and Future EMC Meeting Dates

The next EMC meeting is scheduled for September 18th at Blodgett Forest Research Station. The first half of the day will be inside, with an afternoon field session viewing EMC projects. A Doodle poll will be emailed for an October meeting date.

9. Announcements

The watercourse crossing design training workshops scheduled for July 31st in Korb and August 2nd in Willits were cancelled due to the Carr and Mendocino Complex fires. They will be rescheduled shortly. The first two crossing design workshops took place in Rancho Cordova/Blodgett Forest Research Station on July 19th and Redding/LaTour Demonstration State Forest on July 26th.

The California Society of American Foresters (SAF) Summer Field Meeting is titled "Giant Sequoia: Study in Forest Resiliency," and will be held on August 16-17, 2018 at Murphys and Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Arnold. See: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-norcal-socal-saf-summer-meeting-tickets-47695157500?utm_campaign=SAF+Summer+2018&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Register+SAF+Summer+Meeting+2018

The Salmonid Restoration Federation and Trout Unlimited will host a Large Wood Technical Field School at the Jughandle Creek Farm, Mendocino Coast, on October 30-31. For the agenda and registration, see: http://calsalmon.org/sites/default/files/2018_LWD_Agenda.pdf